

Ulster Wildlife Placement Opportunity 2025

Role Title: Peatlands project placement – research project.

Responsible to: Claire McVeigh – Peatland Collaborative Network Coordinator

Role duration: One full-time 12-week placement starting April 2025

Purpose of role:

This role will use a combination of historical Ordnance Survey mapping from the 1830's and recent aerial imagery to carry out a comparison of the peatland and wetland extent at that time period compared to now. The project will focus on an area of Co Tyrone in Mid Ulster known as the Carrickmore Plateau and specifically the area in the townland of Creggan which is a mix of peatland, agricultural land and forestry today. The assumption is that superficial investigation of the historical OS maps for the area that areas of bog and wetland were much more extensive than today. The role will use GIS software to map the extent of peatland and wetland landscapes in this area the historical maps as well as on the recent aerial imagery and then carry out a comparison to investigate the possible loss of semi natural and natural peatland habitats in that area in the past 200 years.



Figure 1 – Peatlands in Creggan area of Mid Ulster

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Main responsibilities:

- Carry out a research project;
 - Develop protocols for mapping wetland and peatland areas using GIS
 - Use historical imagery and recent imagery to map areas of peatland and wetland across the Creggan region
 - Carry out an analysis and comparison of historical peatland extent and today's peatland extent.
 - Investigate the potential of historical maps for mapping areas of peatland across wider NI.
- Assist with peat depth & condition surveys across other peatland sites
- Assist with drone surveying of other peatland sites
- Help with landowner and stakeholder engagement.
- Promote Ulster Wildlife and our peatlands work.

Skills required:

- Undertaking an Environmental Sciences/Ecology MSc degree or similar.
- Experience of fieldwork/surveys.
- Excellent written and oral communication skills.
- IT skills – competent in MS Office; particularly Word and Excel.
- Excellent team worker.
- Motivated and able to work without supervision, well organised.
- Passionate about nature conservation.
- Willingness to learn.
- Use of a car/driving licence.



Desirable skills:

- Confident in/experience with GIS and any mobile mapping applications.

Placement location: Ulster Wildlife Offices, McClelland House, 10 Heron Road, Belfast, BT3 9LE

Enquiries: Please send a CV and cover letter to volunteering@ulsterwildlife.org by **12 noon on Wednesday 15th January 2025.**